

Application No.: 10/659,569  
Docket No.: SS3335USDIV2

Page 2

Amendments to Claims

Claims 1-32 (Canceled).

33. (Currently Amended) A method for curing a chemical agent deposited on a multiple component nonwoven fabric, comprising heat treating a multiple component nonwoven fabric comprising a first polymeric component, and a second polymeric component and a curable chemical agent, the first polymeric component having a melting point or softening point that is at least 10°C lower than the melting point or softening point of the second polymeric component, comprising by passing a length of said fabric through a tension isolation means to reduce the tension on said fabric in any one direction to between 0 and 52.5 N/m, and heating the nonwoven fabric to a sufficient temperature for a sufficient time to cure said chemical agent, wherein said temperature that is greater than about  $(T_m - 40)^\circ\text{C}$ , where  $T_m$  is the melting or softening point of the first polymeric component, but less than  $(T_m - 10)^\circ\text{C}$ , while the nonwoven fabric is under a such reduced tension in any one direction that is between 0 and 52.5 N/m.

34. (Original) The method according to claim 33 wherein the fabric is heated to a temperature that is greater than about  $(T_m - 30)^\circ\text{C}$ .

35. (Original) The method according to claim 34 wherein the fabric is heated to a temperature that is less than  $(T_m - 15)^\circ\text{C}$ .

36. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein said heat treating is conducted at a line speed of greater than 137 m/min.

37. (New) The method according to claim 33, wherein said fabric is collected by winding it on a roll.

38. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein said fabric is wound onto said roll under a tension of less than about 52.5 N/m.